



CANADIAN
CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

National Voice Of Cattle Producers

Statement

Canada signs Canada, U.S. and Mexico Agreement

November 30, 2018

Calgary, AB – The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) congratulates the Government of Canada for signing the Canada, United States and Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) today in a ceremony on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Once ratified, the CUSMA will update, modernize and replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Originally agreed to September 30, the timing of the 'NAFTA 2.0' trade pact was of particular importance to cattle producers who were entering the time of year when the majority of beef calves in Canada are marketed. The CUSMA preserves and secures the duty-free access upon which the Canadian beef cattle sector has been built over the past 25 years, certainty that helped cattle buyers feel confident about the long-term stability of the market.

Today's signing commits each country to commence its domestic ratification process before the Agreement can come into force. The CUSMA will come into force the 1st day of the third month of all countries completing their respective ratification process. Mid-March would be the earliest that the U.S. Congress could approve the Agreement. In Canada, the signed treaty must be tabled in the House of Commons for 21 sitting days before an implementation bill may be introduced. Canada's rebranding the signed Agreement CUSMA follows the normal treaty practice of placing Canada first in a formal trade pact.

In addition to preserving duty-free trade in live cattle and beef, producers are pleased that the existing rules of origin and the most important dispute settlement provisions remain intact; there is nothing in the agreement on country of origin labelling for meat or livestock. There is ongoing interest to address regulatory matters affecting cattle and beef trade and to continuously improve the competitiveness of the North American beef sector.

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